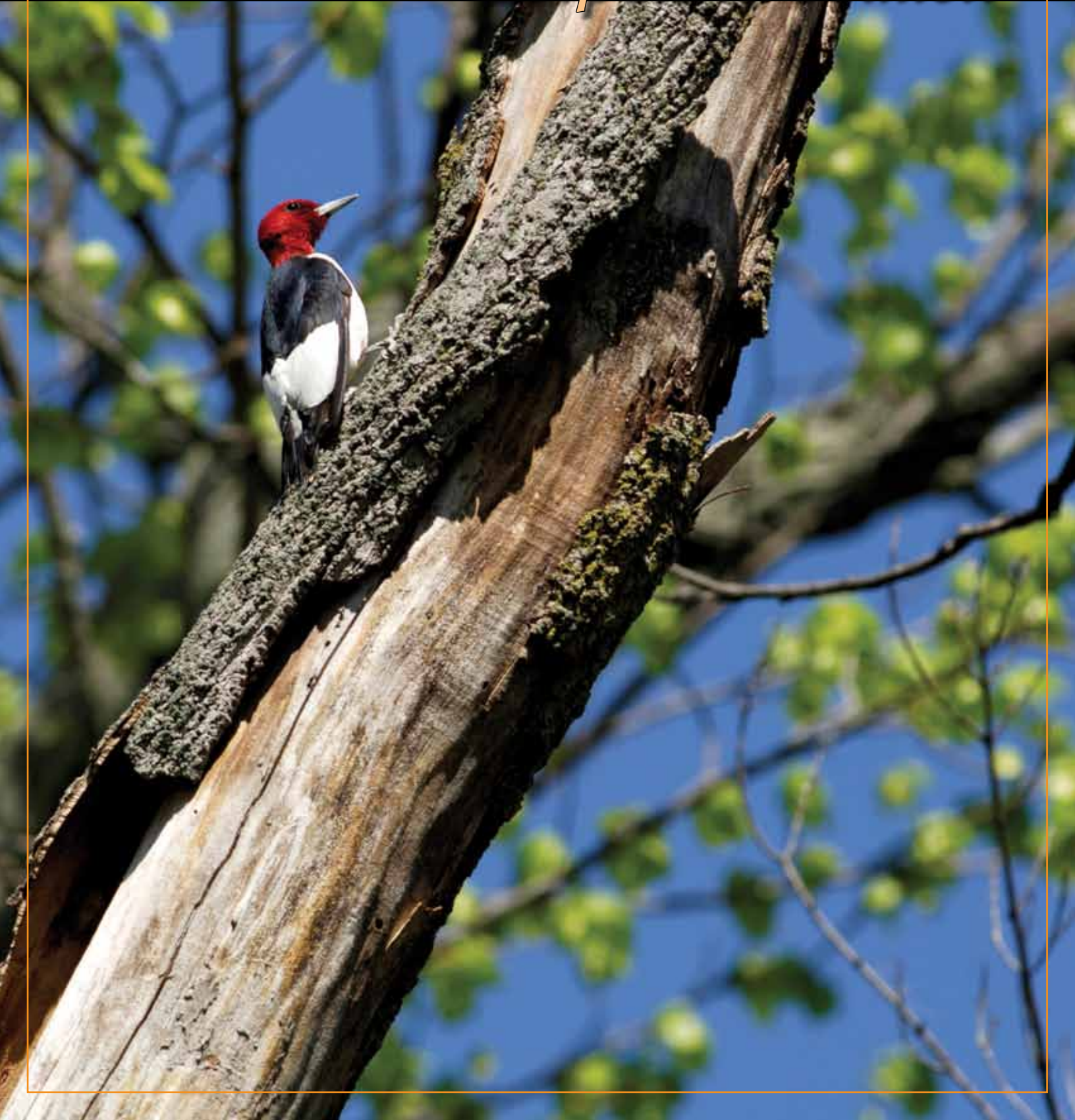


Chicago Wilderness

Corporate Council



Chicago Wilderness

What is Chicago Wilderness?

Our region's remaining woodlands, prairies, wetlands, streams and lakes – the mosaic of approximately 370,000 acres of protected lands and waters – are home to an astonishing diversity of native plants and animals. And in a larger sense, the natural areas of Chicago's wilderness are also our home. When healthy, they help clean our air, filter our water and provide innumerable opportunities for recreation and respite from the urban world.

The Chicago Wilderness region is one of a handful of metropolitan areas in the world that has a high concentration of globally significant natural communities. Some of these are more rare than tropical rainforests. For example, less than one-tenth of one percent of Illinois' tallgrass prairies and even smaller fragments of oak savannas remain, making these communities extremely rare.

SET Environmental is proud to be part of the Corporate Council. We are passionate about working with other like-minded companies to help define and drive forward innovative solutions to save and restore the regions where we all live and work. Personally, the Corporate Council allows me to bring together my passion for the environment, preserving it for future generations, and collaborating with others to identify new or unique ways to operate our businesses.



*–Meredith Cywinski, Account Manager,
SET Environmental, Inc.*

DICK TODD



TALLGRASS RESTORATION



CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE ENGINEERING, LTD.



DICK TODD

“It is exciting to see this unique partnership between corporations and conservationists. The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council has played an extraordinary role in helping unite and facilitate relationships that have and will result in accomplishments beyond what individual organizations could achieve alone.”

– **Jim Jerozal**, Chair,
Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council and
General Manager, Energy Efficiency, Nicor Gas



Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 250 organizations that work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

Why is Chicago Wilderness Important?

In addition to harboring globally significant natural areas, Chicago Wilderness is critical to human health and well-being:

- ◆ Lakes and rivers provide much of our drinking water,
- ◆ The woodlands and prairies cleanse our air of carbon dioxide and other pollutants,
- ◆ Local wetlands filter pollutants and absorb flood water, protecting our homes from flood damage,
- ◆ Native plants are a virtual pharmacy, providing the source material and blueprints for many of today's medicines, and
- ◆ Natural areas of all types provide people with a variety of recreation opportunities, and the chance to balance the challenges of urban life with opportunities to enjoy the natural world.



JIM NACHEL



JORDAN ROWE, TALLGRASS RESTORATION



JOYCE PERBIX



TALLGRASS RESTORATION



Chicago Wilderness

Corporate Council

The business community has a profound influence on the region's biological diversity through its people, land development and management practices, political activity, philanthropy and the shaping of public opinion. For that reason, Chicago Wilderness formed the Corporate Council.

The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council strives to improve the quality of life in the region by connecting **economic goals, ecological health standards** and **social values** to achieve a sustainable relationship between people and nature. For your employees and clients, that means a vibrant regional economy, a higher quality of life and a better place to live and work.

Corporations with a presence in the Chicago Wilderness region, and that support the goals of Chicago Wilderness, are encouraged to join the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council.

Dues

Corporate Council members contribute annual dues that directly support Chicago Wilderness activities and programs.

CAROL FREEMAN



JORDAN ROWE, TALLGRASS RESTORATION



JIM NACHEL



MCHENRY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Our mission

The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council brings the resources, skills, capabilities, and influence of its members to foster widespread awareness of the region's biodiversity and to develop broad-based support for its protection, restoration, and stewardship. To provide a more sustainable urban region, members of the Council strive to promote and use best practices in the design and management of their facilities and properties.

Governance Role in Chicago Wilderness

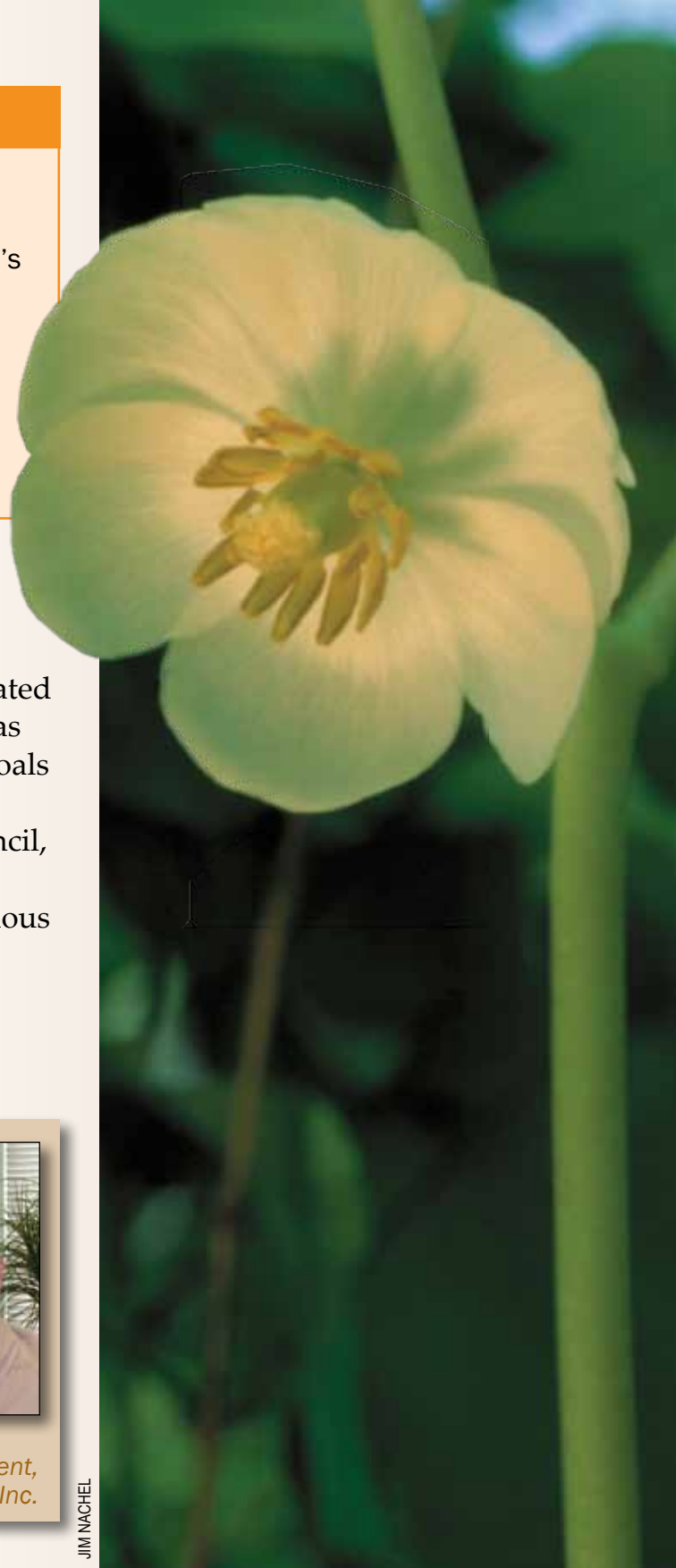
The Corporate Council functions as an unincorporated coalition and its members organize their activities as they deem appropriate to support the vision and goals of Chicago Wilderness. The Corporate Council is a member of the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council, which sets the strategic direction for the alliance. Corporate Council members participate on the various teams, committees and project groups of Chicago Wilderness.

"At JFNew we believe it is very important to be active corporate citizens in the markets we serve. Participation in the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council is advantageous because we can provide insight and have direct interactions with corporate peers on critical ecological issues that can benefit the entire region. Through this collaborative involvement we can advance plans that will provide for continued ecological renewal and revitalization."



– **Mike Lancioni**, Vice President,
Director of Services, JFNew, Inc.

JIM NACHEL



TALLGRASS RESTORATION



KEN DRITZ



TALLGRASS RESTORATION

Chicago Wilderness

Benefits of Membership

Through membership, corporations can:

◆ **Contribute to quality of life and economic vitality in the region:** Chicago Wilderness and the Corporate Council are working together to improve environmental quality, promote sustainable practices in the region, and help connect people to nature. They are partners in realizing the goals of the Chicago Wilderness *Biodiversity Recovery Plan* and its vision for public awareness, involvement, and the region's biological health.

◆ **Promote employee and family participation in local conservation:** Programs offered by members of Chicago Wilderness provide opportunities for corporate employees and their families to get directly involved in nature through land restoration, stewardship, education and exploration.

◆ **Share technical expertise:** Non-profit and corporate members of Chicago Wilderness share their expertise with one another. For example, corporate members can receive technical assistance in the restoration and natural landscaping of corporate lands in the region. Corporate members can offer their own perspectives and technical expertise to Chicago Wilderness members in fields ranging from environmental policy to marketing and to land and water management practices, and many other areas.

◆ **Receive Chicago Wilderness publications and resources:** Corporate Council members have access to Chicago Wilderness materials, including scientific and educational publications.

CAROL FREEMAN



ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES



CAROL FREEMAN



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

"We are proud to be part of the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council. We firmly believe that the goals of Chicago Wilderness can only be realized through the joint efforts of traditional conservation and open space organizations and private corporations and developers. Private companies are in a unique position to promote and implement progressive initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Vision. Participation in the Corporate Council allows us to interact with a diverse group of forward-thinking companies and enables us to develop new collaborations that strengthen our own capabilities to better serve our clients."



*– Dennis Dreher, Director of Conservation Design,
Cowhey Gudmundson Leder, Ltd.*

◆ **Participate in networking opportunities:** Corporate Council members enjoy opportunities to exchange ideas and information with other members of the corporate and the conservation community of the Chicago Wilderness region.

◆ **Receive recognition and acknowledgments:** Corporate Council members are recognized in various publications, programs, and websites.

◆ **Take advantage of advertising and sponsorship opportunities.** Chicago Wilderness hosts events for members and the public throughout the year. Corporate Council members are given priority advertising and sponsorship opportunities for these events. Whenever possible, corporate members and Chicago Wilderness explore co-promotion opportunities in the media and in Chicago Wilderness publications.

◆ **Promote their reputations as friends of the environment.** Corporate Council members enjoy the prestige of partnering with a community of corporate and non-profit organizations recognized nationally and internationally as a model public-private partnership for cooperative conservation in an urban environment.



JORDAN ROWE, TALLGRASS RESTORATION



JORDAN ROWE, TALLGRASS RESTORATION



DICK TODD



TALLGRASS RESTORATION



Chicago Wilderness **CORPORATE COUNCIL**

The Chicago Wilderness Region

Embedded in one of North America's largest metropolitan regions and stretching from southeastern Wisconsin, through northeastern Illinois, into northwestern Indiana and southwestern Michigan is a network of natural areas that includes approximately 370,000 acres of protected lands and waters. These natural areas are Chicago's wilderness, and they are home to a wide diversity of life. Thousands of native plant and animal species live here among the more than nine million people who also call the region home.

The Chicago Wilderness Alliance

Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 250 organizations that work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

Cover Photo by Carol Freeman: *The red-headed woodpecker thrives in fire-dependent open oak woodlands, and has come to symbolize the restoration of high-quality habitat across the Chicago region.*

Back Cover Photo by Dick Todd

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